

9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**MELTON CONSTABLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Clerk to the Council: Kirsty Cotgrove, Bodgers Field, Norwich Road, Briston, NR24 2BB**  
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**MINUTES** of the Melton Constable Parish Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 7.30pm via Zoom (online).

Present: S Unsworth D Carter  
S Meacock A Crawford  
John Cox A Brown (District Councillor)  
S Aquarone (County Councillor) K Cotgrove (Clerk)  
2 members of the public

3356 Apologies for Absence

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was AGREED to accept apologies for Elaine Smith.

3357 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox SECONDED by Cllr Meacock it was AGREED to accept the minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January as a true and accurate record.

3358 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Unsworth, Meacock, Crawford and Cox all declared in interest in allotment rents. Dispensation was granted to speak and vote.

3359 Matters Arising from Last Minutes, not covered on the agenda

3343. The cars are still behind the old Telephone Exchange. District Councillor Brown will chase planning enforcement.

3343. The Clerk has been told by Westcotec that the light has been repaired, but it is still flickering by the morning. It is thought that this is happening as there is not enough sunlight to charge the battery enough.

3344. Cllr Meacock went to look at the broken bench on the Rec. While he was there, two Parishioners attended and repaired it. Thanks were given to Steve Dent and Dan Warricker for the repairs. Cllr Carter has some wood stain, and will give it to Cllr Meacock.

3360 County & District Councillor reports

County Cllr Aquarone emailed a report prior to the meeting. He asked if the flooding issues at the Spinney have been rectified. It was confirmed that work has been done, and hopefully it has rectified the situation.

District Councillor Brown emailed a brief report to the Clerk prior to the meeting. There will be a by election in Holt on 6<sup>th</sup> May, to coincide with the County Council elections, as Duncan Baker has resigned as District Councillor. The Covid rates in North Norfolk have returned to a very low rate. There will be a Conservation Area Review this year.

*District Cllr Brown left the meeting at 8:03pm.*

3361 To adjourn the meeting for public participation

The owner of the land on Grove Road was in attendance. She sold the Spinney land to a developer and has spoken to him about the flooding. He has agreed a planting plan with NNDC, and has planted the area, which may help with flooding issues.

*County Cllr Aquarone left the meeting at 7:47pm.*

The Parish Council wrote to the owner of the Grove Road land last month, due to the large amount of rubbish accumulating on there. She advised that whenever the area is cleared, more rubbish is dumped, but it was noted that the area has not been fully cleared of rubbish and undergrowth for some years, which makes the area look uncared for, and

were discussed. It was also noted that, on the area the Parish Council have kept tidy and mowed, no fly tipping has taken place.

3362 Members' Reports

Churchyard: No report.

Southside: A letter has been received from Brown & Co, to state that there can be no public access onto the Grove Road land. The Parish Council have been paying to maintain an area of this land, which was well used and looked after last summer. As no-one is allowed to access the land, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Cox, it was AGREED to stop mowing this area.

Bus shelter: No report.

Play area: Still closed under current Covid restrictions.

Recreation Ground: No report.

Northside: All ok. It was noted that a section of road in the junction of Burgh Beck Road is breaking up. The Clerk will report to Highways.

Allotments: All good, and everyone has now paid. There have been a few instances of chickens out on allotment plots.

3363 To update on the renovation of the land adjacent to the Millennium Gardens

The quote has been accepted, and hopefully the contractor will start clearing soon. The Clerk has instructed him to leave the fence in for the time being. A donation of £250 has been received towards renovation works. Thanks were given to the anonymous donator.

*District Cllr Brown left the meeting at 8:06pm*

3364 Planning

PF/20/2606. Land adjacent to 12 Astley Terrace. It was noted that there has been a history of similar applications for this land, all of which have been refused by the Planners. The only changes that Councillors can see are a noise report has been carried out on the Industrial Estate, but this only covered three weeks in January, so doesn't account for seasonal noise, and a slight change to the design of the properties. Councillors discussed the application, and on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was agreed that the Parish Council OBJECT to the application, as the application would degrade the current housing stock, and will continue to block light to 12 Astley Terrace, and overlook gardens in Melton Street. The nearby Industrial Estate means the plot is unsuitable for development into housing, as there is a lot of seasonal and unpredictable noise. For these reasons, the previous refusals of permission based on EN4 & EN13 remain. It was noted that the plot of land would make a good environmental buffer between existing houses and the Industrial estate.

3365. To review allotment rents

The Clerk reported on the deficit of £7247 between income and expenditure on the allotments over the last five years. The Parish Council have the Power to spend precept money on allotments, but are allowed to charge rent to cover costs if they choose. Other local rents rates were noted. It was discussed that, should the Parish Council be able to, water could be supplied to the allotments, but not with the current disparity between income and expenditure. On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Cox, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was AGREED to increase the rent from £1.20 per rod to £1.50 per rod, from October. The Clerk will write to tenants to let them know. When the next invoice arrived from Mr. Harrold the Clerk will ask if they can assist with getting a water supply to the field.

3366. To agree a quote for repainting the bus shelter

Three quotes have been obtained. Following discussion, on a PROPOSAL by Cllr Crawford, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, it was AGREED to accept the quote from Paul Minns, who can carry out the work in the Spring.

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3367. Finances

(i) Financial Statement - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Carter, SECONDED by Cllr Meacock, the monthly statement and budget update were approved

(ii) Payments - On a PROPOSAL by Cllr Meacock, SECONDED by Cllr Crawford, it was AGREED to approve the following payments:

E.on	Electricity direct debit	£30.90
K Cotgrove	January salary, Inc. HMRC	£312.00
Westcotec	Monthly lighting maintenance	£13.25
	TOTAL	£356.15

3367 Correspondence.

(i) Plot holder complaint regarding rubbish behind allotments – Cllr Unsworth went to look at the area in question, and it looks as if rubbish has blown from allotment plots into the field. As the rubbish has blown onto private land, and there has been no contact from the farmer, there is nothing the Parish Council can do.

3368 Items for March agenda

Land adjacent to Millennium Gardens, possibly Felbeck

3369 Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7:30pm, via Zoom

Meeting Closed 8:37pm.

Clerk ..... Chair ..... Dated .....